16th August 1954]

Number of Hindi Pandits who were not permitted to sit for the S.S.L.C. Examination in March 1953.

* 153 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Hindi Pandits who were not permitted to sit for the S.S.L.C. Examination in March 1953; and

(*b*) the number of such Pandits who have been admitted to the subsequent S.S.L.C. Examinations held in October 1953 and March 1954?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Seventy-five Hindi Pandits were not permitted to sit for the S.S.L.C. Examination held in March 1953 as they were not qualified then to appear for the examination.

" (*b*) This information is not available in official records and it cannot also be ascertained except perhaps by entering into correspondence with the Pandits concerned."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—" Have the Government considered the question and found out that the order passed at the time of the examination in March 1953 was wholly unjust and against the facts? " 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know how it is unjust. The Pandits were made eligible to appear for the examination in October 1953 if they had become qualified. Therefore, I do not see any unjustness in the order."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—" They were all teachers with three years' service as in the case of Sanskrit and Tamil Pandits. They were denied permission and were forced to get a training diploma which they have already obtained as part of the **Pracharak** diploma."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" They have to get the Pracharak diploma and then they will be eligible to sit for the S.S.L.C. examination. If they are not qualified under that rule, I do not see how we could make them eligible for it."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY :—" Sir, may I request the Chair to allow a half-hour debate on this subject. This subject was mooted in the last session and the Government have to be cleared of the misapprehension that the Pracharak diploma is a mere training qualification, whereas it is not. Pracharak diploma is not at all a mere training course: **but it is** a training course plus something else. As this matter affects a number of Pandits and as the Government have to be posted with the actual position, I request the Chair to allow a half-hour debate on it."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I do not consider this matter to be important enough to be discussed in a half-hour debate. Therefore, I disallow the request."